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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

The large telecoms that are supporting the USTelecom are simply asking you to invalidate the essence of the public bargain that was made to install the massive copper infrastructure in the first place. The deal was that we would give special dispensation to utilities in order for them to install the copper telephone infrastructure. They argued it was "the only way" that they would make the investment. Communities agreed to give up many rights and put up with higher phone prices because this was the price to get the infrastructure built.

These companies used this as a carte blanche to engage in anti-competitive behaviors. This led to the legal judgement that created the "baby bells." Ever since that judgement, they have continues to look for ways to thwart competition. Now they are once again trying to find a way to thwart competition in the form of a proposal to end competitive access the copper infrastructure. As a current user of a DSL competitor, sonic.net, this would force me to abandon my existing service provider, constituting material harm to me and a major loss in competition for the bay area. I can not understate the higher quality of service and support that sonic provides, having used both Comcast and ATT (my local incumbents.) They provide many small benefits that larger competitors seem to be too big to care about. I also have the benefit of supporting a local business and feel that my right of choice would be erased by this proposed change.

Once again, these large companies with their massive legal and lobbying budgets are trying to avoid the substance of the argument that they received special compensation for installing the copper phone infrastructure. They want to treat it as another way to extract maximum profit with minimum services on long depreciated infrastructure from people who do not have other choices. The only thing blocking this goal for people like me is the competition that is enabled by competitive access.

Jerry Scharf